

Central Intelligence Agency



Washington, D.C. 20505

DDI-02292185

03 MAY 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Robert M. Kimmitt
Executive Secretary
National Security Council

SUBJECT: Draft NSDD on Pacific Basin

1. The NSC has asked for CIA concurrence on the subject draft NSDD on the Pacific Basin. We do not concur at this time, believing that the NSDD should first be improved in clarity and purpose. Our reasons:

- The proposed NSDD is unclear as to what exactly the Pacific Basin is, or should be conceptualized as. There is much rhetoric concerning the Pacific Basin that is highly positive, but the concept means different things to different actors. There is considerable disagreement as to what the Pacific Basin includes. The ASEAN countries focus on themselves plus the United States, Canada, Japan, Australia, and New Zealand. Others believe Korea, China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong should be included. Another view includes Mexico and other parts of Latin America. The draft NSDD tends to leave these questions hanging.
- There are possible negative, as well as positive, aspects of the Pacific Basin idea which the NSDD should mention. The NSDD's assumption that "trends and developments are in the overall interest of the United States and further our foreign policy objectives" overlooks the possibility that some of the actors involved now see Pacific Basin cooperation principally as a means to expand exports to the US, which has the potential to increase the US trade deficit.
- There is a possibility that under the rubric of Pacific Basin cooperation the spread of anti-nuclear sentiment could be encouraged. There is evidence that New Zealand's anti-nuclear policies are gaining credibility among some of the Pacific Island states. Indonesia has also been supporting the creation of a nuclear weapons free zone as a first step towards the establishment of a Zone of Peace, Freedom, and Neutrality.

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- There is a possibility that cultural, religious, and other basic forces could promote disruptive nationalistic influences in the Pacific. US efforts to enhance cooperation, even if limited and focused on nonofficial areas, probably will be interpreted by some groups as intervention, possibly leading to intensified anti-US feeling, and potential Soviet gains. The proposed NSDD needs to consider how such eventualities should be dealt with.
- The NSDD should be clear about just what mix of US private and government involvement is envisaged. The proposed NSDD needs to be more precise on what degree of government involvement is envisioned in supporting the private sector, on how this might affect US security interests, and on what the US could do if its economic interests are threatened by increasing multilateralism. The present proposal focuses on encouraging the private sector while "not seeking at this stage to create formal governmental structures." Yet it also says that "agendas and membership of any multilateral forum must be carefully examined and managed." These two goals are not compatible.

2. In withholding concurrence at this time we are not fighting the idea of a Pacific Basin. We do feel strongly, however, that the USG not embark on this journey until the NSDD has pointed out more clearly what the name of the voyage is, and just where the USG wishes it to go.


Executive Secretary

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Remarks 23. NIO/ECON X

To # 20: Please prepare comments/concurrence for my signature.

Executive Secretary

29 Apr 85

Date

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

April 26, 1985

Executive Registry

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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. DONALD P. GREGG
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for National Security Affairs
Office of the Vice President

MR. NICHOLAS PLATT
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Department of Defense

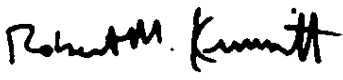
MRS. HELEN ROBBINS
Executive Assistant to the Secretary
Department of Commerce


Executive Secretary
Central Intelligence Agency

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SUBJECT: Proposed NSDD on Pacific Basin Cooperation
for Clearance (S)

Attached is a proposed NSDD on Pacific Basin Cooperation previously coordinated by the State Department to interested agencies. Request formal concurrence be provided to the NSC by May 3, 1985. (S)


Robert M. Kimmitt
Executive Secretary

Attachment

Tab A Proposed NSDD on Pacific Basin Cooperation

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TAB A

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THE WHITE HOUSE

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**NATIONAL SECURITY DECISION
DIRECTIVE NUMBER**

PACIFIC BASIN COOPERATION (U)

BACKGROUND

The United States recognizes the importance of its growing relationships with other Pacific nations to its overall economic, political and security interests. As a Pacific nation itself, the United States seeks, at many levels, to strengthen and coordinate its interactions with other regional countries. This interest in greater regional cooperation is shared by many of the Pacific nations. Continued cooperation and maintenance of open, competitive markets in the area will reduce trade friction, increase economic growth, and foster stronger overall relationships. (U)

While seeking to foster and broaden the regional cooperative process, the United States must maintain and strengthen its key bilateral relationships in the Pacific. (U)

Within the region, various private groups and organizations have been established, chiefly in the commercial and professional sectors, to promote better ties among the peoples and nations of the Pacific. In addition, the six (6) ASEAN nations have initiated periodic dialogues on economic issues with the five (5) advanced economies of the region (Japan, the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand). Within this 6+5 framework, joint effort already has begun on human resources development activities. There is a growing potential for further multilateral cooperation among the ASEAN countries and their dialogue partners in this and other economic fields. (C)

These trends and developments are in the overall interest of the United States and further our foreign policy objectives. The United States should not seek to force the pace or dominate the developments, but should encourage and support evolutionary steps forward, utilizing existing mechanisms and organizations. We must anticipate Soviet efforts to disrupt or slow progress; and we must reassure our European allies of our continuing commitment to their security and mutual economic cooperation. (S)

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The focus of our efforts at this stage should be on encouraging activities by the private sector and by non-governmental organizations. We are not seeking at this stage to create formal governmental structures. And, above all, we must seek to avoid the appearance of a dominant United States role. This development will be successful only to the extent that it is built on the initiative and interest of all the countries of the region. (S)

Accordingly, United States policy should facilitate and reinforce existing private sector activities. A range of private sector, academic and governmental organizations will serve to enlist broad participation as we move toward more formalized cooperative activities. (C)

United States policy should build on existing institutions and mechanisms to foster stronger and deeper regional multilateral relationships, and seek, as circumstances permit, to expand involvement in the 6+5 by other governments, as observers or participants; to involve non-governmental entities, such as the Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference and the Pacific Science Association, with governments drawing on these entities as resources on a range of specialized issues; and to use the 6+5 forum (as expanded) as one of the means to address significant regional economic issues relating to trade and capital investment. (C)

The United States policy should seek open trading markets in both directions, and be prepared to address domestic protectionist pressure. (C)

Multilateral efforts must be managed in such a way that they do not disrupt vitally important bilateral relationships or encourage the proliferation of problems like our present dispute over ship access in New Zealand. For this reason, agendas and membership of any multilateral forum must be carefully examined and managed. (S)

IMPLEMENTATION

To ensure that United States interests are represented in the Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference, Executive Branch officials should participate actively (in a non-official capacity) in the United States National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation and should work to broaden participation in private sector fora by the major economic actors in the Pacific, such as the ASEAN countries, the Republic of Korea, Taiwan and China; and to identify practical multilateral cooperative steps, especially in the areas of trade and finance, which do not undercut established United States bilateral objectives. (C)

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The Interagency Group on the Pacific, chaired by the Department of State, shall continue to coordinate government activities with regard to Pacific Basin initiatives, specifically those dealing with the ASEAN 6+5 (as its agenda evolves), the Pacific Economic Cooperation Conference and similar Pacific Basin private sector cooperative groups; and to develop and recommend programs to improve the awareness and understanding by Americans of the importance of the Pacific, including the creation or expansion of educational programs, student exchange and other programs which foster greater familiarity and understanding among the American public of the Pacific, and increase training in Pacific languages and culture. (C)

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REMARKS